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THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

www.nasjax.navy.mil/jaxairnews

JaxAir News

TOUCHING BASE

Outpatient Pharmacy closing

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Outpatient Pharmacy patrons should be advised that the Outpatient Pharmacy and Refill Building will close at 2 p.m. tomorrow for a command function.

The Outpatient Pharmacy and the Refill Building will reopen Saturday for normal operations.

Attention hunters

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is offering a hunter education course July 19 and July 26 from 1-7 p.m. at Hangar 1000 at NAS Jax.

The course is free and includes the required orientation from the NAS Jax game warden to hunt on federal lands.

Pre-registration is required by calling (352) 625-2804.

Chapel offers financial workshop

A workshop is being offered Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NAS Jax Chapel to help military families deal with financial family issues.

This workshop is designed to identify the root causes of family financial problems, provide basic and practical financial planning tools that can enable you to take control over the family's finances, and further provide information on how to remain in control.

To sign up for this workshop, call 542-3051 or stop by the Chapel office to register.

Childcare is available upon request.

Civilian Captain's Call slated for next Thursday

A NAS Jax all-hands civilian Captain's Call will be held at 10 a.m. on July 24 at the base theatre for all civilian employees and military members who supervise civilian employees assigned to NAS Jax UICs.

For more information, call Fred Byers at 542-3342.

New returned check policy

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

The NAS Jacksonville Commissary recently joined five other commissaries around the United States in a test phase which streamlines processing procedures for returned checks through a new process. This new process won't change the way shoppers write checks, but will reduce paper checks returned to the commissary for insufficient funds.

"This new process went into effect July 7. It's just another way to enable us to do a better job serving our patrons here. By using this new process, we no longer have to spend time dealing with bad



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

AOC(AW) Donald Quick writes a check at the NAS Jacksonville Commissary. A new, more efficient centralized returned check processing system was recently implemented here to provide better customer service.

checks. It was quite time consuming for our employees to handle this problem in the past, this will be much more efficient for everyone," explained NAS Jax Commissary Store Director Larry Bentley.

In the past, banks would return bad checks to the commissary. The commissary accounting personnel would then send a letter to the individual notifying them of the problem and ask them to come in

and take care of it. The individual was then placed on a list and not allowed to write another check in the commissary until the matter

See CHECKS, Page 11



Photo courtesy of VS-30

Tom Sprague of Lockheed Martin (center) presents the Golden Wrench Award to VS-30 Aviation Maintenance Officer, Lt. Billy Hendrix, (left) and VS-30 Maintenance Material Control Officer, CWO3 Ricardo Green.

VS-30 wins prestigious 'Golden Wrench' award

By Lt. j.g. Justin Drach
VS-30 PAO

It is fairly common for an organization to be recognized for excelling in one particular event or in one performance category.

However, when a squadron demonstrates the ability to consistently excel in all fields of service, they get noticed. After being awarded the Capt. Arnold Jay Isbell Trophy for Surface Warfare excellence, VS-30 was also awarded the coveted Golden Wrench award for Aircraft Maintenance excellence. On June 11, CWO3 Rick Green and Lt. Billy Hendrix accepted the

Golden Wrench on behalf of the Maintenance Department of VS-30 from Tom Sprague of Lockheed Martin.

The Golden Wrench is presented annually to the Viking squadron that has achieved the highest percentage of flight hours to aircraft down time and demonstrated maintenance excellence through an exemplary safety record. VS-30 met all mission taskings head-on in 2002 while maintaining superior maintenance standards. The "Diamondcutters" had a 99.1 percent sortie comple-

See VS-30, Page 11

Saddle up the kids for the annual 'School & Sports Physicals Rodeo'

By Loren Barnes

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Pediatrics and Family Practice Departments are rounding up all school age children for their annual "School and Sports Physicals Rodeo."

The event is set for July 24 and will be held in the Family Practice Department (Green Side). The clinic will be accepting patients from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The purpose of this event is to allow our TRICARE beneficiaries to get their children either a school physical or a Pre-Participation Sports physical.

The school physicals are for all ages up to college entrance exams. No appointment is necessary. Patients should stop by Outpatient Records before going to Family Practice Clinic.

School physicals are typically required by most schools before entry into pre-school or kindergarten or if the child is starting in a new school system.

Most schools and club sports teams require a pre-participation sports physical in order for students to participate in sports team try-outs and other physical education programs. The purpose of this examination is to ensure the child is medically cleared to play the chosen sport. A pre-participation sports physical form can usu-



ally be obtained from the school or club team. The first page of this two page form should be filled out and signed by the parent and athlete before the appointment. The form and more information on this requirement is available in the parents section on the Duval County Public Schools website at <http://www.educationcentral.org/> or at the Florida High School Athletic Association website at <http://www.fhsaa.org/>. This form is also available in the Family Practice and Pediatrics Clinic.

The hospital's annual "Rodeo" is a day set aside to provide school and

sports physicals en masse to our Navy families. All TRICARE Prime patients who have selected Naval Hospital Jacksonville as their Primary Care Manager are eligible for the physicals. If your child is not enrolled in Prime, you may want to enroll now and save the \$40 or more that it costs to get this physical done in a local doctor's office. Remember there is no enrollment fee for active duty family members. Call 542-9164 for information on enrolling in TRICARE Prime.

Besides the necessary school forms, parents should bring with them their personal shot records, and sports team forms if they have them. Patients will need to be dressed in shorts, short-sleeved, loose fitting T-shirts, and a sports bra for girls.

In addition to getting your children's sports physicals done, the Rodeo will feature information on a wide range of health and safety issues, provided by the Wellness Center, the base police and fire departments, Pediatrics, Family Practice, and other Naval Hospital Jacksonville healthcare providers.

If you can't make the July 24 Rodeo, children's physicals can also be scheduled by calling Central Appointments at 542-4677.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

	FRIDAY 76/91 ISOLATED
	SATURDAY 76/91 ISOLATED
	SUNDAY 76/91 ISOLATED

Seven-day forecast available at Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Facility Jacksonville's Web site:
<https://www.nlmof.navy.mil>

LEGAL BRIEFS

Payday loans offer fast track to financial distress

By JO2 Jennifer Spinner
NSB Kings Bay Periscope

The advertisements are everywhere, luring consumers with promises of quick loans to get them through to payday. What the ads do not mention, however is that these "payday" loans come at a very high price.

"There are many different names for these loans," said Felipe Gonzales, financial counselor at the FFSC, Kings Bay, Ga. "Some businesses refer to them as cash advance loans, others call them deferred deposit check loans, but regardless of what you call them, the process is the same. Check cashers, finance companies and other businesses are offering small, short-term, high interest rate loans to consumers."

In most cases, the borrower writes a personal check, payable to the lender, for the amount borrowed, plus a fee. The company gives the borrower the amount of the check minus the fee.

"These fees are usually a percentage of the face value of the check or a flat fee charged per amount borrowed," said Gonzales. "If you extend or 'roll over' the loan, let's say for another two weeks, you pay the fees for each extension."

"These loans target people who already lack money management skills," Gonzales warned. "This is a very expensive method of attaining credit and it should be used as a last resort."

He used this example to illustrate the true cost of payday loans. "Let's say you write a personal check for \$115 to borrow \$100 for up to 14 days. The check casher or payday

lender agrees to hold the check until your next payday. When payday comes, the lender deposits the check or you redeem it by paying the \$115 in cash, or if you can't pay the amount, you pay a fee to extend the loan for another two weeks," said Gonzales.

"The Federal Truth in Lending Act requires that finance companies disclose in writing the actual cost of payday loans in terms of Annual Percentage Rate," explained Lt. J.g. Vaughn Spencer, attorney at Naval Legal Services Office, NAS Jax. "Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is designed to measure the true cost of the loan. Many of these companies try to avoid revealing the true cost by calling the transaction something other than a loan."

In the above example, the cost of the initial loan is a \$15 finance charge, equaling a 391 percent APR. If you were to extend the loan three times, the finance charge would climb to \$60 for a \$100 loan.

Gonzales added that there are many alternatives to these costly loans.

"Consumers should really consider their options," he says. "When you need credit, shop carefully and compare offers. Look for the credit offer with the lowest APR or even better, consider a small loan from your credit union or small loan company, or a loan from family or friends. Always know the terms before deciding on a loan," he stated.

"As with any contract, it is always best to have the terms of the loan reviewed by a legal assistance attorney at the base NLSO before you sign anything," added Spencer. "Also, be very wary of signing anything

authorizing the lender to contact your command. The Fair Debt Collections Act specifically prohibits lenders from doing so without your permission."

Gonzales said that consumers should also consider contacting creditors personally before taking out a quick payday loan.

"Ask your creditors for more time to pay your bills," he said. "Find out what they will charge for that service, whether it's a late charge or additional finance charge or even a higher interest rate, and compare that to what you would pay for a payday loan."

Of course, prevention is the best plan for avoiding credit emergencies. Setting a realistic budget and regularly setting aside money for savings, even in small amounts, can help keep consumers out of debt when emergencies and unexpected expenses pop up.

"This can give you a valuable buffer against financial emergencies," remarked Gonzales. "The last thing you need when an emergency situation comes up is to have a mountain of debt to take care after everything is over."

FFSC offers many programs to educate and assist consumers with credit. If you would like help working out a debt repayment plan with creditors or developing a budget, contact your command financial specialist or the FFSC financial counselors.

If you need legal advice regarding these types of loans, or you are being harassed by creditors, contact your local Naval Legal Services Office to speak with an attorney.



Meet A Sailor...

SK2(SW) JOSE CABARCAS

Job title/command:

Base Supply
QA Auditor/Inventory Control

Hometown: Barranquilla, Colombia

Family Life: Divorced with two children.

Past Duty Stations: USS Simon Lake, CTF-53 Manama Bahrain.

Career Plans: To continue my naval career and pursue a college education.

Most Interesting Experience: Growing up in South America.

Words of Wisdom: Second is the first loser.



Meet A Civilian...

CINDY MARIE BRYANT

Job title/command:

Base Supply Accounting Tech

Hometown: Baltimore, Md.

Family Life: Married with six children.

Past Duty Stations: None

Career Plans: To continue working in the accounting field here.

Most Interesting Experience: When you have six children, every day is an interesting experience.

Words of Wisdom: God first, the rest will fall into place.

ON THE HOMEFRONT

A Navy Wife's Village

How asking for help makes you stronger

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

There are two things I hate doing: the lawn and the trash. When counting down the days until homecoming, some women choose to track paydays, school days, or Mondays. Me? I always counted trash days. "Just 12 more times of taking out the trash," I'd yell across the street to my neighbor as I rolled the can to the curb.

And when the cruise (my husband's first in 2001) was extended, not a neighbor was spared my ranting and raving over having to take out the trash "yet another two weeks!"

Each time I rolled the green, heavy bin down the driveway, I considered it one of the most intolerable jobs of a Navy wife.

That same deployment my front yard was invaded with fire ants, crab grass, and some type of crepe

myrtle fungus, which was never identified. I let these problems go "unnoticed," believing they might magically disappear and I wouldn't have to actually care for the grass myself.

And the yard problems did go away. My sympathetic neighbor next door became my complimentary yardman. (Although, I've always wondered if it was true charity which prompted him to mow my grass each week, or rather a fear that the chinch bugs would crawl over his side.) Either way, I had free lawn service.

Occasionally, a neighbor would take pity on me and replace my trashcan back to the side of the house after the garbage men were done with it.

And once, when I had maggots in the bottom of the bin, a few men from the neighborhood were nice enough to dispose of them and Clorox the trashcan, and not tell me about the

whole incident until a year later (they knew better).

"It takes a village to do Sarah's trash," one neighbor joked.

And sometimes it also took a village to change Sarah's flat tire, to kill big bugs in her living room, and to fetch her son's toy airplane that landed on the roof.

Towards the end of that deployment, I began to feel guilty. I wondered if I wasn't being strong enough and if I shouldn't take my title of "Navy dependent" so literally as to mean I was, well, dependent.

"Don't be silly," my neighbors would say. "We're glad to help." More than hanging a flag from their door, they said helping a Navy family made them feel like they were doing their part.

Surprisingly (to me), despite doing my lawn every week and occasionally my trash and home repairs, these neighbors often told me I was far

from "dependent."

Instead of focusing on the things I was not doing myself, my neighbors were in awe at the things I had done alone. And most of these things (caring for sick babies in the middle of the night, dealing with emergencies), I had done without my realizing it or giving myself credit.

I learned that being strong and independent doesn't necessarily mean doing it all.

Most things in life do require a "village," and there are few people who can do everything themselves. It's OK to ask for and accept help. Most people are eager to give it.

We all have our limits (apparently mine are maggots and chinch bugs), and it's best if we know them. That's the true makings of a strong Navy wife.

HEY, MONEYMAN!

Hey, MoneyMan!

I recently tried to buy a new car and they told me that I have a bad credit rating. I have never filed for bankruptcy and don't think my husband and I have that much debt. How do I find out about my credit?

MoneyMan Sez:

Your credit rating is very important and can impact your life in many ways. Maintaining good credit should be one of your highest priorities.

According to Chalker Brown, vice president of the

NAS Jax VyStar Credit Union, the best thing you can do is to always pay your bills on time. Many things will impact your credit rating but missing payments or being late with payments can lower your score quickly.

He also recommends that you get a copy of your credit report at least annually. Stop by your bank or credit union and ask them how to improve that credit score.

More questions? Call Hey, MoneyMan! at 778-0353.

Flags needed for command wall

The MWR Fitness Center would like to invite all NAS Jacksonville commands to take ownership in the "new" center by donating a two-by-three-foot flag with command logos to

the hang on their command wall.

A special hanging ceremony will be held once the center receives these flags. For more information, call Barbara Millhollan at 542-3518.



Sunday Services

You are invited to the following Base Chapel Worship Services this Saturday and Sunday:

Saturday - 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Episcopal
9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass
11 a.m. - Protestant Worship
6:30 p.m. - Contemporary Service
"The Leading Edge," Hangar 749 at the Base Chapel Center.

Children's Sunday Class - Protestant Sunday School program is at 9:45-10:45 a.m., and Catholic CCD is 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Jax Air News

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Albertson to retire after 25 years of naval service

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

After 25 years of honorable naval service and achieving his childhood dream of becoming an aircraft carrier pilot, Capt. Scott Albertson, operations officer and anti-terrorism force protection officer for Commander, Navy Region Southeast will retire next Thursday at 10 a.m. at the NAS Jax BOQ Pavilion.

A native of Stroudsburg, Penn., Albertson graduated from Stroudsburg High School in 1972 and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from West Virginia University in 1976. He entered Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1978 at NAS Pensacola, Fla.

After being commissioned, Albertson reported to NAS Beeville, Texas for jet flight training. He was designated a naval aviator in September 1980. After S-3A training, Albertson was assigned to the VS-28 "Gamblers" at NAS Cecil Field. During this tour, he made two deployments to the Mediterranean as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force to Beirut, Lebanon and the North Atlantic.

His next tour was with Commander, Training Air Wing Six at NAS Pensacola as an intermediate and advanced jet pilot flight instructor. In December 1986, Albertson reported to the VS-32 "Maulers" also at NAS Cecil Field.

"I really miss my days at NAS Cecil Field. It was the greatest Naval Air Station that existed," he said sadly.

In May 1991, Albertson reported to the VS-31 "Topcats" as the maintenance officer, deploying on board USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) to the Persian Gulf and the North Atlantic.



Capt. Scott Albertson

His next shore tour took him to Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as the S-3 training and readiness officer and flight hour program manager.

In 1994, Albertson joined the VS-22 "Checkmates" again at NAS Cecil Field serving as executive officer and then commanding officer. During this tour, he again deployed on board the Eisenhower and USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in support of NATO operations in the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

"This was my favorite tour during my naval career. This tour provided me the opportunity to put my ideas into action. I was able to build a team to support our mission instilling my own values and direction," explained Albertson. "This tour was also very gratifying because I had a greater connection to my squadron shipmates and their families. We all worked together to build an organization that deployed to a combat zone and succeeded. Every mission was important and every Checkmate contributed selflessly to ensure that success."

Following his command tour, Albertson reported to Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve as the battle group air operations officer. During this tour, he deployed on board USS Enterprise (CV 65) where he served as the task force air operations officer during Operation Desert Fox in the Persian Gulf.

Albertson arrived at Commander, Navy Region Southeast for his final tour in 2000.

During his distinguished career, Albertson has traveled the world, supporting this country during numerous Navy missions. "I will miss the sense of mission and dedication displayed to that mission. Ours is to defend this great country and assist those in need around the world. Everyone knows this and without question, they perform under the most hazardous conditions, on board aircraft carriers, at sea, in harms way without reservation," he said. "I will miss the camaraderie and the 'cover each other's six' attitude that is so prevalent in naval aviation. I have made the best friends that I have because of the Navy."

Albertson has two daughters, Sabrina and Heather. He and his wife, Sherri are relocating to Colorado Springs, Colo.

WAVES reunion cancelled this year

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the annual WAVES reunion will not be held this year. Another reunion is planned for next year under new leadership.

Anyone interested in helping out with this reunion, call Carolina Clark at 771-4173.

Worksheets are ready to be signed

All candidates taking the advancement exams in September must go to PSD to sign their worksheets now through Aug. 15. For more information, call PSD at 542-4233.

Mogle retires after 24 years of dedicated service

By Lt. J.g Matt Wright
HS-11 PAO

Last Friday, the "Dragonslayers" of HS-11 bid farewell to ATCS Merrill Mogle who retired after 24 years of distinguished service.

The ceremony was held in the Navy/Marine Corp Reserve Center aboard NAS Jacksonville with HS-11 Commanding Officer Cmdr. John Schoeneck as the guest speaker.

Mogle, a native of Springfield, Ill., enrolled into the Navy's Delayed Entry program during his senior year in Springfield's Southeast High School on 1978 and reported for basic training at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. in September 1979.

After completing basic training, he reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) Millington, Tenn. for Enlisted Basic Aviation Training, Basic Electronics and Electricity School and Avionics Technician Class A1 course.

In March 1981, Mogle was ordered to NAS Norfolk, Va. for duty with HSL-34. During this tour he completed two deployments to the Persian Gulf.

In 1985, he reported to NATTC Millington where he completed Avionics Intermediate, Class C7 Course and the Instructor Basic Course.

Upon completion of this training, he was assigned as an instructor at NATTC Memphis Aviation Technician "A" School from January 1986 to October 1989.

Mogle then reported to the HSL-42 "Proud Warriors" at NS Mayport in October 1989 where he was assigned as the detachment chief petty officer for Detachment Six and



Photo by Lt. J.g. Matt Wright

ATCS Merrill Mogle gives his final salute at his retirement ceremony last Friday.

deployed to the Red Sea for an eight-month deployment, conducting maritime interdiction operations in support of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

During his tour at HSL-42 he was designated as an enlisted aviation warfare specialist.

His next tour took him to HSL-40, where he was assigned as the Material Control supervisor.

Mogle then reported to HS-5 in August 1995 and completed two deployments and held the billets of Avionics Armament Division chief, flight deck coordinator, and night shift Maintenance Control supervisor.

In July 1996, he transferred to Naval Aviation Schools Command at NAS Pensacola for duty as an instructor.

During his final tour with HS-11, Mogle deployed to the North Arabian Sea for Operation Enduring Freedom when the carrier set the record for 159 continuous days-at-

sea.

Upon return from deployment, Mogle was assigned as the night check Maintenance Control supervisor and later as the Quality Assurance senior chief.

During his off-duty time, Mogle has earned an associates degree in science in technical studies from Regents College, an associates degree in science in industrial management technology from Florida Community College Jacksonville, and a bachelors of science degree in liberal studies from Excelsior College.

Attending his retirement ceremony were his wife, Donna, son, Marcus, daughter, Erica, mother-in-law, Marge Clinton, and his niece, Kristin Shepherd.

Mogle and his family are relocating to Pensacola, Fla.

ADAMS HOMES OF NW FLA, INC. #1; 2c; 5"; Black Only; PU 7/10 R018410

Reup at the races



Photo courtesy of VR-58

A special reenlistment ceremony was held July 3 at the Daytona International Speedway on "Victory Lane." Richard Petty officiated over the reenlistments of AMC(AW) James Lindsey (left) and AD2(AW/NAC) James Davis, of VR-58.

Early-transition option offered to some Sailors

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Sailors planning to separate from the Navy before the end of this fiscal year now have the option to do so up to six months early under a recently announced Enlisted Early Transition Program.

The program is voluntary and applies to active-duty Sailors (USN, USNR, Training Administration Reserve (TAR) and CANVASSER recruiters) serving in selected ratings. It is designed to give those who have already decided to leave the Navy more time to prepare for civilian life.

"We'd like everyone to want to stay in the Navy," explained Chief of Naval

Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, "but we understand that not everyone will. For those who decide to leave us, we want them to know we appreciate their service and value their contributions."

"If being able to let them leave the Navy a little bit early helps them get a great job, start college or make other plans to benefit their families, then that's just another way we can say thank you," Hoewing added.

Sailors can begin submitting requests for early separation now. Commanding officers retain final approval authority for early separations up to 90 days before their end of active obligated service (EAOS). Requests for early separa-

tion between 91 days and six months before EAOS (if EAOS falls on or before March 15, 2004) will be approved by the Navy Personnel Command, but must include a favorable endorsement by a Sailor's commanding officer.

"This is a strictly voluntary program, aimed mainly at those Sailors who've already made the decision to move on to their next career, and are not in a critical rating," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott.

All separations under this program will be effected no later than Sept. 15, 2003.

For more information, go to NavAdmin 162/03, at www.bupers.navy.mil.

CASA BLANCA A; 2c; 4"; Black Only;

FLORENCE COUNTY DISABILITIES &; 2c; 5"; Black Only;



PR3 Gary Vaughn stands in front of the baby shower drop off at AIMD. Vaughn and his wife, Stacy, recently had triplets.

AIMD holds baby shower for VP-62 Sailor and family

By JO2 (SW) Cliff Williams
CNRSE Public Affairs

Baby showers always have served several purposes, ranging from allowing friends and family to share the joy and excitement of welcoming a new life into the world and providing emotional support to new parents.

Friendly pieces of advice from friends, family or even co-workers can be extremely helpful, and the presence of everyone who attends the shower is a supportive gesture that many appreciate.

It's not uncommon for an expectant mother or father to be nervous about their new role as a parent, especially when their newborns happen to be triplets, which is the case for PR3 Gary Vaughn and his wife, Stacy, who recently gave birth to triplets, Ashton, Triston and Aubrey.

Baby expenses can put quite a strain on a couple's budget, and for Vaughn and his wife, Stacy, it's times three. "This baby shower was a chance for Vaughn's coworkers to help with the costs of caring for their newborn children," explained baby shower coordinator, AZ2 Maurine Taylor. "New parents always need fun and practical things, along with hand-made gifts or toys to create memories that last a lifetime."

Traditionally, baby showers were celebrated by a new mother and only her closest friends after the baby had been born, however, being born into a military family, you become a part of the military.

At the time, it was considered presumptuous to hold a baby shower before the child was born, which is still the case in some cultures.

Over time, however, old traditions have relaxed, allowing for "couple showers" to which men are invited, and celebrations in the workplace that co-workers can attend. It is no longer necessary to wait until the baby is born, unless the mother-to-be prefers to wait until after she has given birth.

For Vaughn, who has been in the Navy for only one year, being a father is a big task. He was feeling the stress with the new additions to his life.

"It was kind of shocking when I found out, I was an E2, I didn't know how I was going to support them, but with the help of AIMD and VP-62, they made me a third class petty officer and rushed to get me into base housing. It's a blessing, so I'm going to enjoy it," he said.

The Vaughn's also have a three-year-old daughter, Avery.

There was a lot of planning to help the Vaughns out as much as possible for their new additions to their family. "The paraloft had a bake sale early on and all the donations went to the Vaughn family,"



AIMD had a special cake created for PR3 Gary Vaughn and his wife, Stacey, who recently gave birth to triplets.

said Taylor. "There was a donation jar where individuals from various commands donated money, totaling almost \$400. AIMD Power Plants bought two brand new swings. There were other donations from divisions and personnel at AIMD and some churches."

VP-62 got the family a diaper contract and baby wipes for one year from "The Storks Choice, located in Richmond, Texas. They also received more than \$1,200 in donations just from the reservists.

For Vaughn, he could not believe how helpful and loyal his friends and co-workers have been to him.

"I appreciate everyone's support. We started off with nothing and now we have everything the babies need," said the proud father. "We have three cribs, car seats, and diapers to start us off. We have highchairs, toys, clothes and shoes. I'm just amazed at how much everyone has donated," commented Vaughn.

By helping out the Vaughn family, Sailors have proven they continue to look out for their own. This family has experienced first hand the unselfishness Navy members have shown them, something they're likely never to forget.

Getting Wet



Photo courtesy of the Base Chapel

Lt. j.g. Kurt Michaelis, a chaplain at NAS Jax, recently completed a three-day aviation survival training at the NAS Jax Aviation Survival Training Center. This training qualifies students for the ejection seat, physiology and water survival. "This was a great experience. As a chaplain going through the course, it was great to participate in what is known as 'deck-plate' ministry. It gave me the opportunity to talk with and minister the Sailors going through the training," said Michaelis.

CDC is looking for home providers

The Child Development Center is looking for home providers. If you are an on-base resident, you will only need to be Navy-certified to become a home provider.

If you are an off-base resident, you will have to be state-certified as well as Navy-certified. This program is for dependent female and males. For more information about this program, contact Cathy Yarbrough or Ingrid Robinson at 542-5434 / 5529 / 2472.



Navy JROTC Interscholastic Sailing Association South Atlantic Division

Navy JROTC sails into Jacksonville

By PH2 Chantel Chapman
Regional Visual Information Support Center Jacksonville

Naval Air Station Jacksonville recently hosted the Navy JROTC and the Interscholastic Sailing Association, South Atlantic Division. Under the supervision of retired Lt. Cmdr. Bob Spencer, teenagers from schools all over the southeast region had the opportunity to learn to sail.

It was a childhood passion that inspired this Groton, Conn., native to start a sailing program. "My grandfather had a sailboat," said Spencer, reminiscing. "As a child, he would take me out on his boat on the weekends to go fishing. It's the quietness and serenity of sailing that makes it so great."

After retiring from the Navy, Spencer became certified through the United States Sailing Association and the Chief of Naval Education and Training. The sailing program is offered to JROTC students throughout the southeast region, to include Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee. Spencer, with the help of other certified JROTC instructors, has been teaching kids to sail for seven years.

Out of nearly hundreds of students in the program, the base hosted about 45 teenagers between the ages of 14 through 17, from nearly 14 schools in the Florida and Georgia area. The week-long course not only involved sailing, but naval education was tied into the experience. When they weren't sailing, the youngsters received tours around the base, learning first hand what Navy life is like. They also had access to the bowling alley and made necessary runs to the commissary.

The first part of the program involved four hours of classroom instruction. Students learned basic boat handling techniques, sailing terminology, and boat and water safety. They also learned what to do should their boat capsize. All students had to pass a deep-water swim test before allowed to sail. They were then paired based on personality traits, swimming abilities, and boat handling experience.

"Most of these students have never been sailing," said Spencer. "This sport is not gender-based. Kids learn quickly, therefore, gaining confidence in themselves. A child's mind is like a sponge. It sucks up knowledge quickly. You won't see any school rivalries out here. All these kids want to do is sail."

The base and the Navy played an impor-



A group of students prepare a sailboat as they get ready to head out on the water.

tant role in making this experience memorable for the kids and stress-free for the staff. A typical week such as this would normally cost about \$750. The price would include transportation, lodging, food, and

boat rentals. The Navy JROTC absorbs most of the cost, bringing the price down to about \$130 per student. A program such as this would normally be offered in private schools only, but with the cost subsidized

considerably, public school students can now have the same opportunity. The students lodged on base, the galley provided meals, and the marina provided full access to boats and the river. The weather office was in constant communication with the instructors, giving them the latest weather updates. The slightest hint of a thunderstorm would send the boat back to shore.

"It's the naval base that makes this possible," said Spencer. "We can't do this without their support."

"I've learned a lot," said 16 year-old Candice Carroll, a junior at Brunswick High School in Brunswick, Ga. "Each class boat I've sailed in is basically the same, but with minor differences."

At the end of the week, students received certificates of completion, and took home with them memories that would last a lifetime.



Several students prepare to dock their sailboat at a pier at the NAS Jacksonville Marina.



Navy JROTC Interscholastic Sailing Association South Atlantic Division



JROTC students recently participated in a learn to sail program, sponsored by the Interscholastic Sailing Association, South Atlantic Division. This week-long course involved students learning how to sail and experiencing first hand what Navy life is like.



JROTC students involved in the Interscholastic Sailing Association, South Atlantic Division, prepare their sailboats at the NAS Jacksonville Marina.

Photos by PH2 Chantel Chapman



Retired Lt. Cmdr. Bob Spencer, a native of Groton, Conn., supervises JROTC students in the Interscholastic Sailing Association, South Atlantic Division during the week-long learn to sail program.

A team of JROTC students maneuver a sailboat in the St. Johns River while participating in a week-long learn-to-sail program, sponsored by the Interscholastic Sailing Association, South Atlantic Division.



Commissary bakery offers quality cakes for your special event

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

An important aspect of any big event is having a perfectly decorated cake to cut to serve to all the guests. At the NAS Jacksonville Commissary, the Bakery Department can create just about any kind of specialty cake desired.

"I recently heard that a squadron here purchased a cake from a local grocery store for a change-of-command ceremony and paid an enormous amount of money for it. That really bothers me because first of all, our quality is as good, if not better than the local grocery stores, we offer them at cost and we're right here," said NAS Jax Commissary Store Director Larry Bentley.

"We also just purchased a new computer imaging machine for the bakery that allows our cake decorator to create logos and photographs on edible

paper to use as decorative items," he added.

Creating unique cakes is something Tina Baldwin has been interested in since she was a young child. "I used to watch my dad make cakes for our family and learned from him. I decided when I was young that this is what I wanted to do. When my mom learned they had a position open in the bakery here, I applied and was hired the next day," said Baldwin, who has been the cake decorator here for about five years.

During the past five years, Baldwin has seen numerous changes in her work environment. "Since they remodeled the commissary, our business has really increased. There is a much greater demand for everything – cakes, trays and other baked goods. It gets kind of crazy around here sometimes," she stated enthusiastically.

When a customer orders a cake from the bakery, Baldwin will sit down with



Baker Bing Murray hands a customer some baked goods at the NAS Jacksonville Commissary. The bakery features a wide variety of baked goods.

them to determine exactly what they want. "We determine how big the cake will be based on the amount of people, what flavor they want and figure out what exactly they are looking for. For wedding cakes, we'll go through books and come up with ideas. Out in town, customers get exactly

what's in the book, here you get exactly what you want," she continued.

Most cakes can be created within 24 hours, except wedding cakes which require a month's notice because stands and pillars must be ordered.

The bakery also creates a wide variety of children's



Cake Decorator Tina Baldwin puts the finishing touches on a cake for one of the local commands here. The NAS Jacksonville Commissary offers specialty cakes for changes of command, retirements and any other special event. A new machine at the bakery even produces edible logos created from photos brought in by the customers.

themed cakes. Other baked items include donuts, cookies, breads and éclairs.

event, check out our commissary bakery, you might be surprised at what they have to offer.

New high year tenure limits in effect for 3rd class petty officers

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy has adjusted high year tenure (HYT) limits for 3rd class petty officers from 10 to eight years, as part of its continuing effort to improve combat readiness, shape the force and maintain a healthy advancement opportunity.

The changes will be phased in through August 2004 to give Sailors and their families the opportunity to adequately prepare for their transition to a post-Navy career.

"Our aggressive growth in the Top six paygrades, combined with this historic retention we are still seeing, tells me we are on the right path to developing a more experienced force," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. "Now we need to ensure we maintain the same healthy advancement flow for our up-and-coming career-minded Sailors. This adjustment will help us do that."

This HYT adjustment affects E-4s who will reach eight or more years of service between now and Aug. 31, 2004. Currently, there are 1,685 E-4s with greater than eight years of service (1,849 E-4s in their eighth year of service and 3,094 E-4s in their seventh year of service). All affected Sailors will have the chance to compete in both the September 2003 and March



YN3 Jon Klentzman studies online for the upcoming E-5 exam.

2004 exam cycles.

"This is not a decision the Navy makes lightly," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott. "We understand the impact this will have on some Sailors and their families. This revision has been carefully phased in to give Sailors adequate time to prepare for their futures and to minimize the impact on their lives."

A transition period has been developed which will take into account the new HYT limits, as well as the final stages of the July 2002 E-4 HYT change from 12 years to 10 years, announced in NAVADMIN 208/02.

There are some exceptions to this revised HYT policy. However, commands must notify PERS-832 in

Millington, Tenn., prior to effecting reenlistments under these exemptions, which include obligated service in conjunction with formal training, reenlisting under Selective Training and Reenlistment (STAR), and reenlisting for a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB).

Also, Sailors with an approved Perform-to-Serve reenlistment request who are required to obligate service for a formal school are exempt, with certain limits.

Sailors in critical paygrades, undermanned ratings or holding specific Navy enlisted classification codes (NECs) should submit a HYT waiver through

their chain of command. The approval process takes into consideration a minimum of four factors: end strength, community manning (advancements opportunity and rate readiness), scope and billet priority, and quality of life issues.

Those reaching old E-4 HYT limits (12 years) prior to Sept. 30 must separate when they accrue 12 years of total active service. Sailors with greater than 10 years of service between now and Sept. 30 must separate no later than Sept. 30. E-4 Sailors completing 10 years of service between Oct. 1 and Aug. 31, 2004, must separate when they accrue 10 years of total service.

E-4s who currently have less than eight years of service and who will complete eight years of service between now and Aug. 31, 2004, must separate no later than Aug. 31, 2004.

Sailors completing eight years of service as an E-4 after Aug. 31, 2004, must separate when they accrue eight years of total active service.

"Our bottom line and our continued focus," added Hoewing, "is to ensure the combat readiness of the fleet, by shaping the force to provide the right number of Sailors with the right training at the right time, and that those Sailors have a defined career path."

FFSC offers educational and support programs

The NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center Life Skills Education and Support Program is the foremost preventive measure for the avoidance of personal and family problems.

All FFSC workshops and classes are free and available to service members and their families, and civilian personnel aboard the base.

Pre-registration is required. If special accommodations or handicapped access is required, please notify us upon registration. Contact 542-2766, Ext. 127 to register.

The following workshops are available in July:

- July 18, 9-11 a.m. – Federal Employment (for spouses)
- July 23, 9:30 a.m. – noon – Time Management
- July 24, 8-11 a.m. – Anger Control Workshop
- July 24, 9 a.m. – noon – Florida Family Law Information Seminar
- July 24, 6:30-9 p.m. – Ombudsman Assembly
- July 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Stress Management Workshop
- July 31, 8 a.m. – noon – Divorce Adjustment Workshop
- July 31, 1:30-3 p.m. – Volunteer Service Council

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society



Make Us Your First Resource:
Not Your Last Resort!

542-3191

Teens continue to learn while working with kids

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

For several teens working at the NAS Jacksonville MWR Youth Activities Center (YAC) this summer the days are both challenging and fun.

They've learned that working with groups of children on a daily basis is not always as easy as it may seem. "One of the biggest things I've learned while working here is that you have to have patience. It's been challenging especially with the older children because they don't always want to listen to what you have to say. I really like working with the younger children better," explained Kelsi Yeakel, one of the eight teens hired for the YAC Summer Teen Employment Program.

Each year, YAC hires eight teens to help out with Summer Camp at the center as part of a specially-funded MWR grant. "Unfortunately, we lost two of our teen employees this year. One just didn't work out and the other had some family problems," said Amanda Christmas, coordinator of the program. "But overall, the program has been a huge success. The teens are doing a wonderful job, I'm really proud of them and what they've accomplished."

Each teen is assigned to work with a staff member, leading a group of children through their day-to-day activities. These activities include trips to the bowling alley, swimming pool and a wide variety of other activities. The teens also spend time doing activities through a career launch program which prepares them for future endeavors. They've also toured several MWR facilities to



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque
Teen Employee Wesley Johnson plays a game of pool with his group at the Youth Activities Center.

learn how they are run and what they have to offer.

"We've learned how to fill out job applications and do resumes. We also just had a representative from the Navy College Office come and talk to us about our future plans. He gave us a bunch of information and we did a personality test to see what field we might go into later on," said Teen Employee Lauren Ervin.

"We all seemed to have a pretty good idea of what we want to do in the future. The tests showed we were headed in the right direction," added Yeakel, who is possibly looking towards a career as a first grade teacher someday.

Several of the teens are quite familiar with the surroundings here. "I used to come here when I was younger. This was a great opportunity for me because I really like working with children and I'm earning some money to buy

some things for the next school year," stated Teen Employee Wesley Johnson.

"I also used to come here when I was younger. I have always loved working with kids, which is why I applied for this job. When I was 11, I started a club called The Breakfast Club. Every Saturday, I'd have kids come over to our house to go bike riding and do other activities. I'm not sure if this is something I want to do in the future, but working with kids is fun," continued Ervin.

The teens are also busy working on their final project - an end of the summer picnic on Aug. 1. "They are responsible for all the planning, organizing and ordering all the food and supplies for this event. This includes all the food and entertainment. It's keeping them extremely busy," said Christmas.

"This project has been a lot of



Teen Employee Lauren Ervin, teaches her group a dance routine for their upcoming talent show.

work. We are responsible for coordinating everything. We have to make a schedule, pick the food and all the activities and work out a budget. We're really learning a lot from this," added Ervin.

To give the teens a little break and to show them how much they are appreciated, a special trip is being planned. "I'm taking them

all to a theme park in Orlando in a couple weeks to thank them for all they've done. The MWR grant allows us to take one special trip as part of the program," said Christmas.

In the meantime, the teens are busy preparing their groups for an upcoming talent show and the end of summer picnic.

HELPING HANDS

Toast to the Animals Wine Tasting

Come out July 25 to benefit the animals at the Jacksonville Humane Society. Help is needed with the silent auction and registration. Call Chris Whitney at 725-8766, Ext. 206.

Teachers' Supply Depot needs help

The Duval County Schools

Teachers' Supply Depot is holding a back-to-school giveaway July 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Forty Navy volunteers are needed to help with this event. Taskings include sorting items, loading cars and restocking shelves. For more information, call 542-2766, Ext. 130.

Clean-up project slated

A clean-up project is planned

at Sadie T. Tillis Elementary School Aug. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon. The school has been adopted by the NAS Jax Volunteer Service Council as the base Personal Excellence Partner for the 2003-2004 school year. All commands and departments are asked to support this endeavor and other volunteer projects sponsored

throughout the year. Lawn equipment, edgers, clippers and lawn mowers are needed. To sign up, call AEC Violenus-Ellis at 542-3526, Ext. 441.

Help with pet portraits

Volunteers are needed to assist during this fundraiser Aug. 8-11 as owners have their

pictures taken with their pets. Volunteers are wanted to greet customers; set up appointments and collect money. For more information, call Chris Whitney at the Jacksonville Humane Society at 725-8766, Ext. 206.

Camp Healing Powers

This camp is a bereavement

camp for children ages 10-16 and will be held Aug. 15-17. Volunteers are needed as camp leaders, assistants, greeters and to assist with registration. Training will be held this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The minimum age is 21. To sign up, call Mary DaCorta at 268-5200, Ext. 6304.

VS-30: Squadron wins ‘Golden Wrench’ for aircraft maintenance excellence

From Page 1

tion rate, 99 percent tanker availability rate, and 100 percent weapons system reliability throughout the entire Joint Task force 02-2 deployment. This unparalleled success was due to the dedicated Diamondcutter maintenance team whose efforts kept VS-30 aircrews flying.

VS-30's track record is very impressive. The 2002 cruise had much significance in that never before has the Viking been equipped to deploy with strike weapons such as the SLAM-ER and IR/LASER Maverick missiles. VS-30's maintainers ensured the jets were ready to employ their weapons with precise lethality. Diamondcutters participated in Operation Enduring Freedom from the North Arabian Sea from July 21, 2002 until Aug. 26, 2002. In September 2002, the squadron participated in Operation Southern Watch and after flight operations had ended, VS-30 was called upon to launch in support

of a no-notice air strike on an Iraqi missile site.

VS-30 provided armed tankers on short notice to ensure mission success. After a successful strike by CVW-17, VS-30 was referred to as "My Clydesdales" by Rear Adm. Joseph Sestak, commander of the USS George Washington Battle Group, for their "on-demand" flexibility in combat.

VS-30 ended the year having flown more than 3,800 hours and recording more than 2,000 carrier arrested landings. Diamondcutter Vikings flew more than 300 combat hours during this cruise. New Maverick Plus aircraft were employed for fixed wing alert response to enemy threats while transiting international straits and other potentially hostile restricted waters.

Despite a demanding and arduous year, Team Diamond never faltered and met every challenge with the greatest of energy and proved to be the example for all other squadrons to emulate. Due to aircraft

system reliability, aircrew proficiency, and most importantly the individual efforts of every Diamondcutter, VS-30 exceeded all operational commitments. VS-30 Sailors distinguished themselves by continuing a trend of excellence that lasted throughout the cruise, and continues to this day.

"Winning the Golden Wrench is certainly an honor, but it is really a tribute to the talent and sweat of 230 sailors, working day in and day out in the toughest environment in the world," said Lt. Cmdr. Jim Hoskins, VS-30's maintenance officer. Hoskins also attributes inheriting the best maintenance department in the Navy to the leadership of his predecessors, Lt. Cmdrs. James Lins and Joe McMahon.

VS-30's selection for the 2002 Golden Wrench Award and Capt. Arnold Jay Isbell Trophy has demonstrated a performance level that is unsurpassed in every measurable category of operational excellence.

CHECKS: New return policy at commissary

From Page 1

was resolved. They were also allowed to pay the debt off in installments, along with a \$25 fee. If they didn't resolve the matter, a letter was sent to their command.

The new process eliminates all this. Returned checks are now being routed to a centralized process site run by a commercial business called Solutran. This centralized processor automatically deducts the checks electronically from the customer's checking account, along with a \$25 insufficient fund administrative fee.

The processor will attempt to collect the full amount owed the first military payday after a check is returned. If at that time, there are insufficient funds in the account, a second attempt will be made the following payday.

All check writing privileges are suspended at the commissary until the matter is resolved. Once the non-sufficient fund check has been electronically collected, a patron can begin writing checks after a 60-day waiting period.

If for some reason, the processor is

unable to collect the funds through the bank account, the Defense Finance and Accounting (DFAS) will start collection action before the money ever reaches the individual's bank account. This will also result in another \$15 fee.

"Using a centralized process to deal with bad checks is a standard commercial practice in most stores. Once the test phase is over in October, the process should be implemented in all commissaries within the United States," added Bentley.

Although Bentley claims there is not a huge problem here with bad checks, he said it does occasionally happen. "The fees add up when you write a bad check. We've posted signs at every one of our checkout lanes informing our customers of this new process. They are no longer allowed to pay-off these debts, it will be take out in full directly through their checking accounts," he continued.

The bottom line is, don't write a bad check. It will save you a lot of headaches and hassles in the future. For more information about this new returned check process, call 1-800-635-6045.

Got a consumer problem?

The following are phone numbers of agencies who can help you when dealing with consumer problems:

- NAS Jax Family Service Center - 542-2766
- Better Business Bureau - 721-2288
- State Attorney's Office Consumer Mediation - 630-2075
- City of Jacksonville/ Consumer Affairs Division - 630-3467
- Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation - 1-850-487-1395
- Construction Industry investigative services - 727-5590

Safety tested



Photo by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay

AM2(AW) Alex Paez wears a standard respirator and he subjects himself to an odor causing agent as apart of the respirator fit testing class offered by the NAS Jacksonville Safety Department on July 8. Paez and three other students participated in the class which is offered every Tuesday. For more information, call 542-3082.

MWR NOTES

Escape the ordinary on an I.T.T. trip

Have some fun with I.T.T. - take a trip or treat yourself to a show! Stop by our office located adjacent to the NEX, and sign up for a great trip. Our trips are open to all hands, so bring a friend! For more information call the office at 542-3318.

Jaguars tickets for all games are now on sale at I.T.T. Tickets are \$47.90 for lower level seats. You can also sign up to ride the I.T.T. shuttle to all the home games. If you sign up for all the games the price is \$6 per game. A ride to a single game is \$8.

The inaugural season of Carnival's Miracle sets sail from Jacksonville beginning in March 2004. Special group costs include round trip bus transportation from NAS Jacksonville to the port, cruise fare and all port fees and taxes. Seats are booking quickly, so sign up today.

The following are upcoming I.T.T. trips:

July 19 - Mt. Dora shopping extravaganza. Antique shop till you drop for only \$12.25.

July 26 - Jekyll Island Historic Tour or Summer Waves. Take the historic tour which includes a guided trolley tour for \$21.50 or spend the day at Summer Waves. Transportation and Summer Waves admission is \$23.50 for adults and \$19.50 for children under 48-inches.

Aug. 9 - St Simons Island. Enjoy a guided trolley tour, see

the lighthouse and museum, and go shopping. The cost is \$33.50 for adults and \$23 for children under 11.

NAS Jax Golf Club happenings

A golf and lunch special is being offered for \$19 weekdays after noon and weekends and holidays after 3 p.m. This special ends Aug. 31.

Players are entitled to 18-holes, cart, green fees and one lunch menu item. For more details stop in the Pro Shop or call 542- 3249.

Aquatics Department taking reservations

The outdoor pool is now open for the summer season. The hours are 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily.

The Aquatics Department staff members are now taking reservations for private parties at the outdoor pool.

The Aquatics staff is eager to help you get you fit. Join them for an aqua aerobics class, Monday - Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, or Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and again from 5:30-6 p.m. There is still time to enroll in May swimming classes. Registration is open for all levels. Please contact the Aquatics Department at 542-2930.

The Heritage Cottages

MWR's new Heritage Cottages are now open for only

\$60 a night. These cottages make for a great vacation home away from home. They are fully furnished with plenty of space. Make your reservation now by calling 542-3138/3139.

Veterinary Treatment Facility

Due to vendor price increases, the Veterinary Treatment Facility has been forced to increase prices. We still have the lowest prices around.

The NAS Jax Veterinary Treatment Facility is located in Building 8 at the corner of Ranger Street and Enterprise Avenue. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. It is closed on legal holidays. Pets are seen by appointment only. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 542-3786.

The clinic is limited to services permitted by regulations. These include vaccinations, heartworm testing, fecal testing and minor treatment of the eyes, ears, and skin on an out-patient basis. Heartworm and flea prevention products are available for purchase at the clinic during regular business hours.

Mulberry Cove Marina news

For the month of June, purchase a rod and reel or rod/reel combo and receive two free packs of artificial bait, your choice of colors.

Are fuel prices emptying your wallet? Take advantage of free

gas this summer when you rent a 40-hp pontoon boat, whaler, bass boat, 10-hp stump knocker, or Yamaha jet skis.

The NAS Jax Yacht Club offers sailing classes. Now that the weather is warm, and the breezes are strong would be a great time to learn this renowned boating activity. After you've completed your class, the marina has sailboats for rent.

The marina offers free kayak and canoe rentals for active duty Sailors on Thursdays. It's a great way to get acquainted with some of the equipment on hand and have some fun too. For more information on marina events, call 542-3260.

Auto Skills Center

Visit the Auto Skills Center for your professional or hobby car care needs. The center offers an array of services for the novice or professional auto enthusiast. There is an ASE qualified mechanic on hand to assist with questions and tips on servicing your vehicle. The center is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and all holidays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

The Auto Skills Center offers a shop orientation class on the third Thursday and Friday of each month. Reservations are required for the orientation. Call 542-3227 for information.

NAS Freedom Lanes offers great deals

This summer enjoy some bowling fun. Each weekday this month through August, patrons can enjoy three games of bowling (including shoes) or two games, shoes and a hotdog and small drink for only \$6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Active duty Sailors take advantage of free bowling on Wednesdays from open to close. Call the center for event schedules at 542-3493.

Youth Activities Center happenings

Take advantage of the fun events at the Youth Activities Center. Monday evenings we have indoor soccer from 6:15-8:15 p.m.

Dance classes and Tae Kwon

Do classes are available at NAS Jax Youth Gym and Yellow Water Youth Activities.

If you are interested in registering your child stop by either center or give us a call at 778-9772 (NAS Jax) or 777-8247 (Yellow Water)

Free movies offered

Enjoy free movies at the base theater each Friday evening starting at 7 p.m. and every other Saturday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Bring your own popcorn, soda and snacks. Sit back and enjoy some of Hollywood's premier blockbuster hits. There are no alcoholic beverages allowed in the theater and persons under 17 are not permitted without adult supervision.

Tomorrow, 7 p.m. – Bringing Down The House

July 19, 5 p.m. – What a Girl Wants

July 19, 7 p.m. – Dream Catcher

Visit MWR online at www.nasjax.navy.mil and look for the tab marked MWR this is your tab to unlimited fun. For questions or comments e-mail us at mwrmtgt@nasjax.navy.

JAX TALES

By MIKE JONES

WWW.RICKYS TOUR.COM



JAX SPORTS NEWS & STANDINGS

Softball tryouts coming up

Softball tryouts for the All-Navy Women's Softball Team will be held today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McCaffrey Field for all active duty women. Anyone interested must obtain an application from Charles Leiter at the base gym. For more information, call 542-3239.

Fall volleyball meeting set

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in participating in intramural fall volleyball July 23, at 11:30 a.m. in the MWR conference room at Building 590. The Intramural Fall Volleyball League is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel only.

Sports officials and scorekeepers needed

The North Florida Military Officials Association is looking for individuals to officiate soccer, softball, football, and volleyball at NAS Jax. Scorekeepers are also needed for basketball. Experience is not required. If interested, contact Al Vandercar at 282-0809.

Navy Southeast Regional Running and Triathlon Team

Represent the United States Navy in 5K, 10K, marathons, and/or triathlons. The Navy will showcase elite active duty men and women in regional races. Uniforms are provided as well as transportation, entry fees, and lodging costs. Interested runners must compete in sanctioned (USA Track and Field, USA Triathlon Association, or Roadrunners Clubs of America) races and your time must be one of top 10 regional qualifying times. If you have run in sanctioned race and your time meets regional qualifying time, contact your base athletic director.

Southeast Regional qualifying times

5K	Men 19:00	Women 24:00
10K	Men 34:00	Women 46:00
Marathon	Men 3H 30M	Women 4H
Triathlon	Men 2H 30M	Women 3H
Triathlon time based on 1.5k swim, 10k run, 40k bike		

For more information about any of the sports articles, call 542-2930/3239. Visit the MWR website at www.nasjax.navy.mil

STANDINGS

Intramural Golf Freedom League Standings

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties
AIMD Albatross	4	0	0
AIMD Khaki	2	1	0
VP-16	2	1	0
WING 11 "A"	2	1	0
NAMTra 1011	2	2	0
Navy Hosp	2	2	0
SERCC	2	2	0
ASTC	1	2	0
Navy Band	1	2	0
VS-22 Checkmate B1	3	0	0
GEMD	0	3	0

Intramural Golf Liberty League Standings

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties
FASFAC	3	1	0
CSCWL	3	0	0
VR-58	3	1	0
VP-62	3	1	0
REDCOM	3	1	0
AIMD SE	2	2	0
Wing 11 "B"	1	2	0
FASO	2	2	0
NAMTra	0	3	0
VS-22 "A"	1	3	0
NADEP	0	4	0

Sand Volleyball Standings As of July 10

Team	Wins	Losses
ASTC	7	1
VR-58	6	2
NMCRC	5	3
VS-31	4	4
PSD Sand Dogs	2	6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Navy Wives Clubs of America, NWCA Jax No. 86 meets the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held in Building 612 on Jason Street at NAS Jacksonville at 7:30 p.m. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call the Thrift Shop at 772-0242 or Pearl Aran at 777-8032.

The Navy Wives Club's DID No. 300 meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Oak Crest United Methodist Church Education Building at 5900 Ricker Road. For more information, call 387-4332 or 272-9489.

Clay County Chapter 1414, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, (NARFE) invites all retired and currently employed federal employees to their regular monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Orange Park Library. For more information, call 276-9415.

MOMS Club of Northeast Florida meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting is free and open to all at-home mothers and children who live in the zip code areas of 32206, 32218 and 32226. MOMS Club is a support group for moms wanting a variety of activities for you and your children. For meeting location or more information, contact Debbie at 751-0671 (debbiejkg@yahoo.com) or Kathi at 751-3400 (katdj28@aol.com).

The Marine Corps League, Jacksonville Detachment holds their monthly meeting the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Marine Corps Recruiting Station at 3728 Phillips Highway, Suite 229. For more information call John Leisman at 779-7375.

The National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) holds its monthly meeting on the third Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Urban League, 903 West Union Street. Interested personnel are encouraged to attend or contact Lt. Herlena Washington at 696-5005 or email WashingtonHO@matcombic.usmc.mil.

Association of Aviation Ordnancemen's meeting is held the third Thursday of each month at the Fleet Reserve Center on Collins Road. For more information, call AOC Chris Johnson at 542-2168 or AOCs Erick Pamley at 542-8589.

Christian Fellowship Night will be held behind the Chapel in Bldg. 749 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. every Tuesday night. For more information call 542-3051.

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society meeting will be held Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street. For more information, call Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (Flotilla 14-8) is sponsoring a one-day Boating Safety program July 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mandarin High School. The cost is \$20 per person. For more information, call Bob Strong at 721-1346.

The Retired Activities Office (RAO) is offering a retiree seminar Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the NAS Jax River Cove Officer's Club. Presentations will cover pay matters, Survivor Benefit Plan, Tricare for Life, Long Term Care, Tricare pharmacy benefits, PSD benefits, hospital benefits and a spouse workshop. For more information, call 542-2766, Ext. 126.

The VP/PB-23 Veterans Association will hold its ninth reunion in Jacksonville Oct. 15-19. For more information, email dklotz23@aol.com.

VF-22 Korean War veterans will return to Jacksonville/Orange Park for a 50th anniversary reunion at the Holiday Inn Orange Park on Oct 21-22. For more information, contact is Jack Bailey at 757-340-5922 or email charlieson@msn.com.

The annual VP-24 Reunion is scheduled for Oct. 24-26 at NAS Jacksonville. For more information, write Don Hall, 2003 Jax Reunion Host, 4421 Commons Dr. East, #413, Destin, Fla. 32541 or email djhdestin@cox.net.

Employment assistance for military family members

The Department of the Navy and Adecco have formed a partnership to create "Career Accelerator."

Adecco, the world's largest staffing services company, and the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) at

NAS Jacksonville are now in partnership to help military spouses build their careers.

Through this service, Adecco recruiters provide military spouses with career counseling, training and job placement at no cost to either the

military or the spouse.

An Adecco representative is available at the FFSC Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call Pat McDonald at 542-2766, Ext. 148.

Softball leagues come to dramatic end

By Craig Dolan
Base Gym

In sports action around the base, two sports leagues recently came to a dramatic close. In the softball leagues, intramural and open, the championships were dramatic.

The Intramural Softball Championship Game was full of suspense and down to the wire action. The game had No. 2 seeded Air Ops pitted against No. 5 seeded VP-30. The game went back and forth, with VP-30 leading by three runs going into Air Ops final at-bat.

In the bottom of the seventh, Air Ops scored four runs behind the offense of ABH2 James Russell, who hit a two-run homerun to get the team going. Air Ops scored two more runs in a come from behind victory, winning 8-7 for the championship.

It seems that rallying is the only way to play softball for the Air Ops softball team.

Air Ops finished with a 13-3 record for the regular season and was undefeated in the playoffs. However, every game was a close game and could have easily been decided by one swing.

"Every member on the Air Ops team played a valuable role in every game," explained Player Coach and First Baseman, Jorge Mojocoa. "Whenever the other team thought they had beaten us, we never let our heads down. Even

though we often wanted to."

In the first two games of the playoffs, the Air Ops team advanced due to forfeit, which had the team a little worried. "The problem with the forfeits is that our team may become too relaxed and soon be forced into a situation with a team that will show up and ready to play," said Catcher Sal Ortiz.

In the first actual game of the playoffs, Air Ops played against the VP-16 "War Eagles", a team with the ability to hit home runs on the spur of the moment. Air Ops won in typical fashion, rallying at the bottom of seventh inning, defeating the War Eagles 10-9.

The next game, against the VS-30 "Diamondcutters", the Air Ops' bats exploded, defeating them with a score of 12-0, defeating them as a result of the 10-run rule. Thus propelling the Air Ops team into the championship.

In the championship game, Air Ops again played VP-30, one of the three teams that defeated them during the regular season.

"We wanted this especially since we first lost to them, sort of like retribution. We knew that we had to earn our respect back," said Second Baseman, Keith Bernauer. "They had to beat us twice to win the whole thing, but we wanted to make a statement. And to everyone's surprise but ours, less than hour later, we were the base champs."



Photo by JO2(SW) Cliff Williams

In the bottom of the seventh, Air Ops Player Coach Jorge Mojocoa sprints to home plate, cutting the VP-30 lead 7-4.

Air Ops did have a scare in bottom of the seventh inning. They were down 4-7, and VP-30 needed just three outs to win the game, but this is where the Air Ops team excelled all season.

"We prefer to be down at the last inning," said Mojocoa. "We play our best ball then, we did it all year and we did it again in the championship."

With no outs and two runners on base, Left Center Fielder James Russel hit a wallop of a homerun to tie the game at seven a piece.

After the dinger from Russel, the Air Ops team just needed a runner on base. They succeeded with Third Baseman Dave Tingler, who represented the winning run. With only one out, a runner on first and third, the championship rested on the broad shoulders of Keith Bernauer, who hadn't connected all day.

With a pitch and a crack of the bat, Bernauer hit the

ball to right field, bringing in Tingler and giving the Air Ops softball team "bragging rights" as base champions as they defeated VP-30, 8-7.

The Open League Softball Championship ended in a surprise finish, at least for fans of top ranked VP-16.

The championship game was a contest between VP-16 and the third-seeded Beenie Boys.

VP-16 was gunning for redemption. They had lost earlier in the week to the Beenie Boys, because of the use of an illegal player. The Beenie Boys were out to prove their win was no fluke.

Right out of the gate, the Beenie Boys jumped on VP-16's pitching, scoring 13 runs in their half of the inning and they never looked back.

The final score of the game was Beenie Boys, 18 and VP-16, 3. The game was called after five innings because of the mercy rule.



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